

March 10, 2010


Dear Governor Rell and Connecticut Legislators:

My name is Candace Magoon and I am a Case Manager at the Katie Blair House. Bethsaida Community has been helping women who are homeless, in recovery, running from domestic violence and coping with mental illness for over 20 years. It has been my privilege to work with the women who come to our door looking for help. They have shown me their wounds, they have taught me to be grateful and they have allowed me to make a difference in their lives. Not all of the women who come through our doors are success stories. But the women, who do embrace our program, show us the need for homes such as Katie Blair. We accept these women without prejudice. We know that these are women who have fallen on tough times, who have been raped as children, who have spent time in jail, who may have a limited education, who have a range of addictions and illnesses and those who desperately need a home. We are there for them.

Our program offers the guidance and tools these women need to become productive, independent adults who can begin again and carve out a life that all of us are entitled to. They want to work, to heal and not be dependent on others for their maintenance. They seek education and look within themselves for solutions to their problems. They become stronger individuals who finally see a future. When it all falls into place, it is a beautiful thing.

These women cannot achieve this without programs like ours. These proposed budget cuts will eventually cause the Katie Blair House to close its doors. All of these women who are being taken off of the streets and out of dangerous situations will have nowhere to go. Common sense and conscious should tell you that cutting our budget so drastically is morally repugnant and will harm the wellbeing of thousands of people. Please consider the public good and service that organizations like ours provide for our neediest citizens. As a taxpayer in the state of Connecticut and as Case Manager in a Social Services position, I implore you to find another way to deal with the states deficits. Cutting the DSS budget is not the right answer nor is it fiscally responsible for the homeless population in Connecticut.

Thank you.


Candace Magoon
Case Manager